

Record
*GAO*OLL 84-0879/1
1 March 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting With Mr. Alan Bennett, General Accounting Office (GAO), on GAO Report to Representative Bill Alexander (D., AR)

1. In follow-up to a courtesy call on Clair E. George, Director, Office of Legislative Liaison, by Mr. Frank Conahan of GAO, Mr. Bennett called on Mr. Conahan's direction to share in advance with us his reply to question No. 5 of the 27 questions Congressman Alexander asked the GAO to answer. The GAO reply is attached.

2. Messrs. [redacted] joined me to review the report with Mr. Bennett. We limited ourselves to the following observations:

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a. We did not consider Mr. Bennett's informal visit and discussion here in late November to be a "formal" request, but we were nonetheless working on answers to questions No. 5 which would be available to the Congressman shortly. The Congress normally requests information from us in writing.

b. We would not comment on the substance of the report; we were, however, able and willing to brief Congressman Alexander directly or the Congressman could alternatively get the answers from the Appropriations Committee (to whom we do report) where he is a Member.

c. Mr. Bennett observed that the first sentence of his reply--that GAO has no statutory authority to audit CIA cover activities--may be stricken by Mr. Conahan.

2. We made a major point that the observation in the report that we "declined" to provide GAO with answers to the questions was misleading: we were immediately ready to supply Congressman Alexander with any information he required, but directly, not through GAO. We were already in touch with the Congressman's office and we suggested that Bennett's report be amended to reflect that. ✓

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Attachment:
As stated

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